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██████████ 3836-63

12 December 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics

THROUGH: Deputy Director (Science and Technology)
Deputy Director (Support)

SUBJECT: Procurement Action in Support of Project OXCART

REFERENCE: National Security Action Memorandum 261, dated
23 September 1963

1. For sometime now and in conformity with agreements reaffirmed last year having to do with the division of procurement responsibility between the Office of Special Activities and the Procurement Division, Office of Logistics, the latter organization has been engaged in procurement of certain electronic items peripheral to Project OXCART but vitally associated with its ultimate operational success. This procurement has been primarily associated with those electronics subsystems and components which of themselves are not loaded with security implications that would increase the risk to the total security of project OXCART. In other words these are items which carry a much higher security classification only when the hardware is associated with the OXCART vehicle.

2. On 23 September 1963 the referenced NSAM was issued by the White House which assigned a highest national priority category for development and production to Project OXCART under the associated cryptonym Project ██████████. This document reflects the continued interest and concern of the Executive Branch shared by the DCI and the Secretary of Defense in seeing that project OXCART moves unhindered to its earliest possible operational readiness date.

3. In the past and in the months to come, the Office of Special Activities either has or will be levying procurement requirements of the sort noted

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above on the Office of Logistics. It is vital that the procurement and contracting machinery of both the Office of Special Activities and Procurement Division, Office of Logistics move forward with the same relative speed to ensure this objective. We would, therefore, ask you to advise the Chief, Procurement Division that we will require expedited action and foreshortened contracting procedures in these cases which we will identify to you and to him under the codeword [REDACTED] which the White House has assigned per the reference document. It should be noted, of course, that the use of this term should be restricted to internal correspondence only and that steps should be taken to see that industrial suppliers not be told of the existence of NSAM 261 without prior consultation with the Office of Special Activities. Your cooperation in achieving this goal will be greatly appreciated.

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[REDACTED]

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Attachment:

NSAM 261 (copy)

JAMES A. CUNNINGHAM, JR.
Deputy Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

CONCUR:

[REDACTED]

17 DEC 1963

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Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

[REDACTED]

6 JAN 1964

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See Note Attached on buckslip
Deputy Director (Support)

Noted 6 Jan. 64

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

OK. WTB

September 23, 1963

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NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 261

TO: Vice President (as Chairman, National
Aeronautics and Space Council)
Secretary of State
Secretary of Defense
Secretary of Commerce
Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
Administrator, National Aeronautics and
Space Agency
Director, Bureau of the Budget
Director, Office of Emergency Planning

SUBJECT: Assignment of Highest National Priority to
Project [REDACTED]

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In response to a recommendation by the Secretary of Defense, the president, under the authority granted by the Defense Production Act of 1950; today established the program listed below as being in the highest national priority category for development and production.

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

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McGeorge Bundy

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